

Single Tooth Implant Coverage Information

If you need a 3-unit bridge, you may be eligible for a single tooth implant instead. Here's what you need to know.

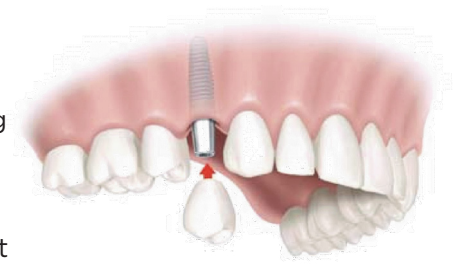
What is a 3-unit bridge?

A 3-unit bridge is a dental procedure to replace one missing tooth and involves drilling down the adjacent teeth that are healthy, to support the bridge.



What is a dental implant?

Most implants fit into the jawbone, similar to the root of a natural tooth. Dental implants offer solid, non-mobile support for replacement teeth, which act and feel like natural teeth. They can provide distinct advantages over traditional methods of replacing missing teeth, because they are integrated into the jawbone.



Delta Dental of Massachusetts offers coverage for a single tooth implant, only in lieu of a three unit bridge, so the healthy adjacent teeth to the space don't have to be drilled down.

To qualify for a single tooth implant, you must meet specific criteria:

- a) There must be natural teeth present on both sides of the missing tooth
- b) Only one tooth can be missing (if two teeth are missing this would be a 4-unit bridge and would not qualify for the implant benefit)
- c) The adjacent teeth must be healthy (in other words free of decay or fracture and not need crowns)
- d) The adjacent teeth must be free of periodontal disease
- e) If multiple teeth are missing in an arch this would not qualify for a 3-unit bridge nor the implant benefit

To find out if you qualify for an implant, please **ask your dentist to submit a pre-estimate** to Delta Dental prior to having an implant. X-rays must be submitted with the pre-estimate (to show that, in fact, the adjacent teeth are healthy and do not require crowns, restorations or periodontal disease exists at the site).

Also, note if a bone graft is required before the implant, this will NOT be covered. If a 3-unit bridge was the primary course of treatment, a bone graft would not be required.

If you have additional questions, please contact our customer service department at 800-872-0500.